



New England Agricultural Statistics

A field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture

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USDA MEASURES FRUIT and VEGETABLE CROPS

At the request of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) and funded by the State Departments of Agriculture in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont, the New England Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is poised to complete the fifth year of a five-year study of fresh market fruit and vegetable prices and yields. State and County FSA offices will use individual state yield and price data to administer farm programs, which will appropriately reflect New England farming practices and commodity prices received. This data series will also be extremely valuable for growers to use in making production and marketing decisions, for Cooperative Extension to provide needed outreach and education, and for State Departments of Agriculture to assist growers.

USDA's Fruit & Vegetable Survey is the only means of providing official estimates of prices and yields for New England tree fruit, vegetable and berry crops. Prior to 2002, when New England data was unavailable, FSA and other agencies used National yield and price averages to calculate disaster program payments to fruit and vegetable producers. Since this regional survey began four years ago, NASS has published prices New England farmers received for a wide variety of fresh market fruits and vegetables; however, acreage, production and yield information for many of these same crops have not been published due to limited data provided to NASS by growers. A large percentage of growers in New England have small, diversified operations, which have less than an acre of a certain commodity and are reluctant to report acreage or production. Additionally, production from farmers operating roadside stands, CSA's or PYO operations historically has not been well recorded. In these cases, calculating yield per acre has been extremely difficult. However, in order for producers to maximize potential benefits from FSA programs, NASS needs complete reports from all growers, large and small, to accurately reflect New England's unique agricultural landscape.

Throughout October and November, over 2,500 fruit and vegetable growers in New England will be contacted by phone for their assistance in this region wide effort. Growers in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont will be asked to provide information on tree fruits, berries, melons, and over 25 different fresh market vegetables. Connecticut growers will be contacted for apple, peach, pear and sweet corn data only. As with all NASS survey work, individual operator information is kept **strictly confidential** and is exempted from requests under the Freedom of Information Act. The individual reports are only used in combination with other reports to establish State and National estimates.

National fruit and vegetable statistics for the 2006 crop are available on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov within minutes of the scheduled release time. Exact publication dates and times will be available in October, 2006.

* Noncitrus Fruit and Nut Report – Preliminary	National	(apples, peaches, pears, cranberries, wild blueberries)	January, 2007
* Vegetable Annual Summary Report	National	(sweet corn)	January, 2007
* Agricultural Review	Regional	(selected statistics reprinted)	January, 2007
* New England Fruits and Vegetables, 2006 Crop	Regional	(35 commodities)	March, 2007

The monthly **Agricultural Review** and the **New England Fruits and Vegetables, 2006 Crop** releases will be available on the Internet at the New England Field Office website www.nass.usda.gov/nh. Complimentary copies of regional reports will be mailed to survey participants upon request.

[Located in Concord, New Hampshire, the New England Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service is responsible for agricultural statistics in all six New England States. The office can be reached toll-free at 1-800-642-9571, or through e-mail at nass-nh@nass.usda.gov. All National statistics and State level publications are available free from e-mail subscriptions and on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov.]

For More Information Contact: John Miyares at 1-800-642-9571